

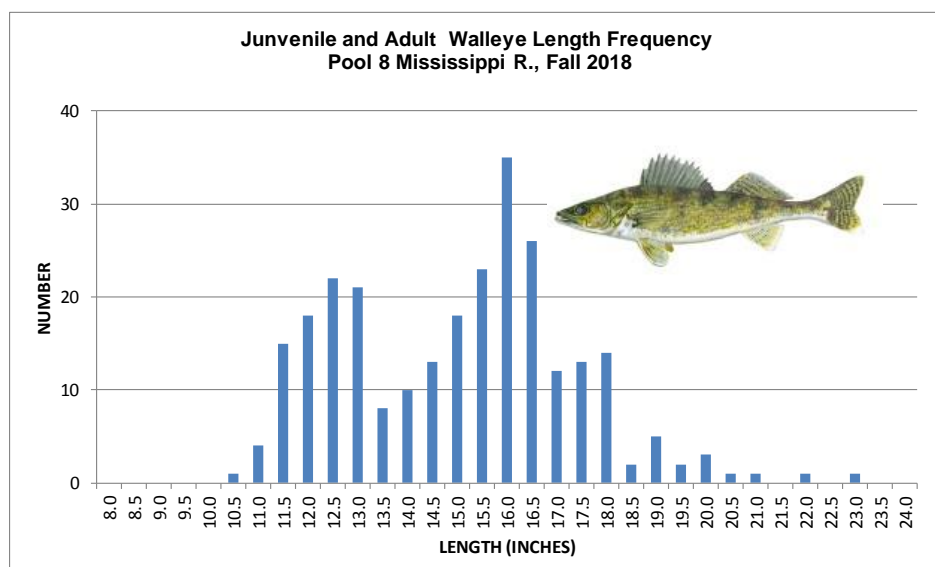


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET. POOL 8, MISSISSIPPI RIVER WALLEYE AND SAUGER.

RIVER: MISSISSIPPI RIVER, POOL 8

COUNTY: LA CROSSE

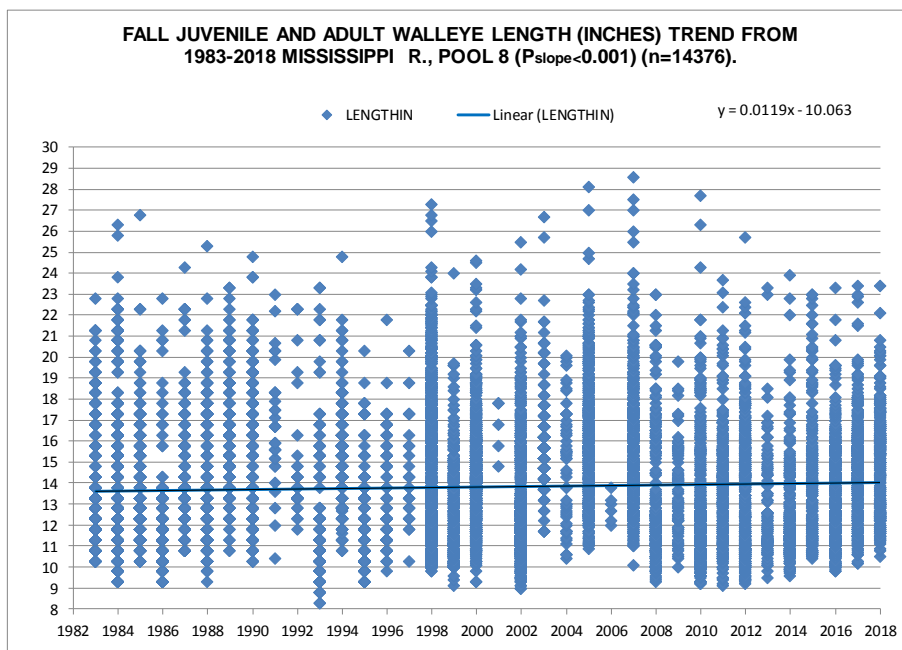
YEAR: 2018



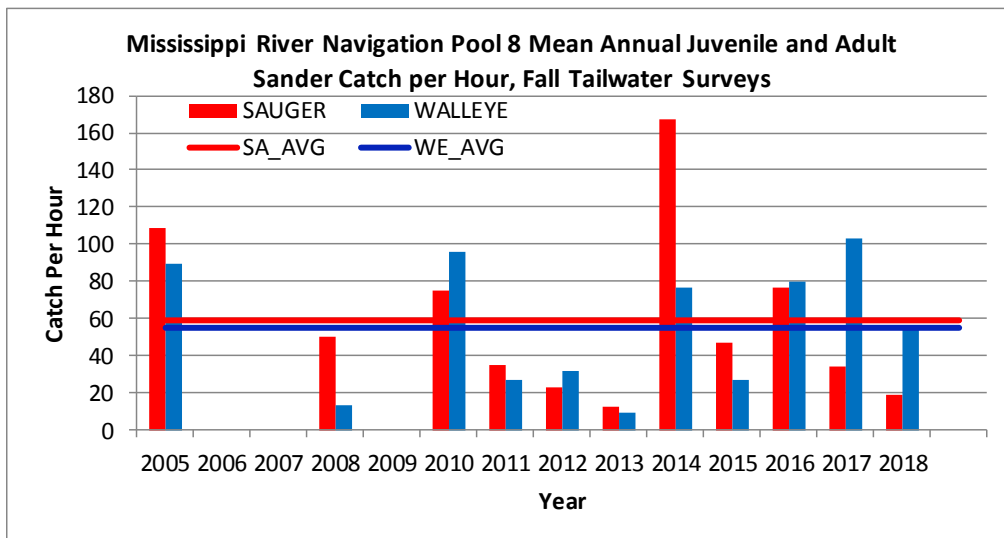
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed Pool 8 of the Mississippi River in La Crosse County to determine the health of the walleye and sauger fishery. Over a three-day period in October, a DNR crew collected a total of 269 juvenile and adult walleye and 101 sauger by electrofishing at night in near-shore areas and wingdams in the tailwater of Pool 8. Walleye larger than 10.0 inches and sauger larger than 9.1 inches were considered juveniles and adults. These walleye were between 10.5 to 23 inches in length. We caught 54 walleye per hour.

Since 2005, catch rate of juvenile and adult walleye, has remained about the same. Although annual catch rates varied from 9.6 to 103 per hour, we saw no trend, either increasing or decreasing, from our samples.

Since 1983, average yearly size of juvenile and adult walleye has varied from 11.8 to 16.7 inches. These fluctuations may be due to varying abundances of annual age classes. We found a long-term trend in annual lengths suggesting that fish size has increased by 0.4 inches over the last 36 years. Our sampling efforts in Pool 8 currently indicate a stable and self-sustaining walleye population.



Juvenile and adult sauger were between 10 to 16.4 inches. We caught 32 sauger per hour. Since 2005, catch rates of juvenile and adult sauger has not significantly changed and there was no statistical trend.



Since 1983, average yearly size of juvenile and adult sauger has varied from 8.3 to 12.5 inches. These fluctuations may be due to varying abundances of annual age classes growing into or leaving the population. There was no trend in size from 1983-2018.

Unlike walleye, there is no minimum size limit on sauger for the Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin. Presently, the bag limit of these

two fishes is 6 fish in aggregate and the walleye minimum size limit is 15 inches.

